

HOUSE BILL 668
By Maddox

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 2-10-310, relative to authorizing a member of the general assembly to raise funds during the time the general assembly is in session if the member is a candidate in a special election to fill a vacancy in either house.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 2-10-310(a)(2), is amended by:

(1) inserting the language “, or running in a special election as a candidate to fill a vacancy in either house,” in the first sentence between the words “who is a candidate for a local public office” and the words “shall be permitted” and by inserting the language “or such special election” between the words “for such campaign for local public office” and the words “only under the following conditions”;

(2) inserting the following language at the end of subdivision (A):

or to fill such vacancy in either house; provided that in case of a multi-county district such fundraising events may be held in each county included in the district;

(3) deleting subdivision (B) in its entirety and by substituting instead the following language:

(B) Solicitations and acceptance of contributions for such purposes may only be made from individuals residing in such county, and in the case of a multi-county district solicitations and acceptance of contributions for such purposes may only be made from individuals residing in each county included in the district; or from such candidate’s political party at the state or local level; and

(4) inserting the language “or to fill a vacancy in either house as provided herein” at the end of subdivision (E) after the words “local public office” so that subdivision (2) reads as follows:

(2) During such period, a member of the general assembly who is a candidate for a local public office, or running in a special election as a candidate to fill a vacancy in either house, shall be permitted to conduct fundraising events and solicit or accept contributions for such campaign for local public office or such special election only under the following conditions:

(A) Such fundraising events may be held only in the county in which such member is a candidate for local public office or to fill such vacancy in either house; provided that in case of a multi-county district such fundraising events may be held in each county included in the district;

(B) Solicitations and acceptance of contributions for such purposes may only be made from individuals residing in such county, and in the case of a multi-county district solicitations and acceptance of contributions for such purposes may only be made from individuals residing in each county included in the district; or from such candidate’s political party at the state or local level;

(C) Such fundraising events shall not be held, nor contributions be solicited nor accepted, on state property;

(D) The member shall not be permitted to solicit or accept, directly or indirectly, any actual or in-kind contribution during such period from a lobbyist or employer of a lobbyist; and

(E) No other member of the general assembly or the campaign committee of such other member shall be permitted to solicit or accept contributions during such period for the member campaigning for local public office or to fill a vacancy in either house as provided herein.

It shall be unlawful for any lobbyist or employer of a lobbyist to make any contribution to such member's campaign committee during such period for any purpose.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.